Studies on the Asian Staphylininae (Coleoptera, Staphylinidae)

VI. A Revision of the Genus *Philetaerius*, with Description of a New Species and Some Notes on the Eucibdelina

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Abstract The staphylinid genus *Philetaerius* is reviewed, with a redescription of the type species, *Philetaerius elegans* Sharp, and a description of a new species, *P. chinensis* is given from China. Also some notes for the Eucibdelina are given.

The genus *Philetaerius* Sharp is a small but peculiar genus in the Staphylinini and was placed in the Eucibdelini by Sharp himself, but its type species has never been reexamined and its true systematic status has never been conclusively determined. In recent years, I have had opportunities to examine the type specimens and several additional specimens of the type species. Besides, I was able to examine some specimens of *Philetaerius* from China through the kindness of Dr. Toshio Kishimoto. In the present paper I am going to redescribe the genus *Philetaerius* Sharp and *Philetaerius elegans* Sharp, to describe a new species, *P. chinensis*, to discuss the phylogenetic relationship of *Philetaerius* in the Staphylinini, and to give delimitation of the subtribe Eucibdelina.

Before going into further details, I wish to express my hearty thanks to Dr. Toshio KISHIMOTO for his kind offer of precious materials of Chinese *Philetaerius* species. I am deeply indebted to Mr. Martin J. D. Brendel for his kindly loaning the type specimens of *Philetaerius elegans* Sharp, to Mr. Koji Toyoda for his kindly giving many specimens of *P. elegans* Sharp and to Dr. Munetoshi Maruyama for his kindly giving many specimens of the species and for identifying the host ant. I am much indebted to Dr. Shun-Ichi Uéno, Emeritus Curator of the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo, for his invaluable guidance on the nomenclatural problems and critically reading the manuscript of this paper.

Main terminology and abbreviations used herein are the same as those explained in the previous parts of this series of papers.

Genus *Philetaerius* Sharp, 1889

(Figs. 1-26)

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386. — Scheerpeltz, 1940, 46. — Blackwelder, 1952, 300. — Shibata, 1984, 99 (Checklist). — Herman, 2001, 3436 (Catalogue). — Smetana, 2004, 680 (Catalogue).
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Type species: Philetaerius elegans SHARP.

The present genus is similar in appearance of the fore body to an ant of the genus *Lasius*. Its members are found around the nests of *Lasius* spp.

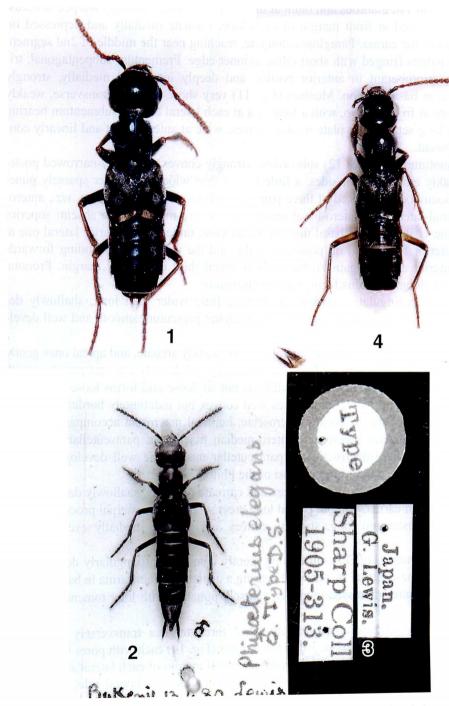
Description. Body medium in size, elongate, subparallel-sided, thick, rather convex above, well shiny; punctures on head and pronotum rather small, umbilicate and sparse; those on elytra very roughly and rather densely punctured; those on abdominal tergites minute and denser in basal area of each tergite but smaller and sparser in hind area; hair-streaming on dorsum almost absent on head and pronotum, poor on elytra and abdomen.

Head (Fig. 5) subquadrate, a little transverse, well convex above, nearly straight at basal margin and rather sparsely punctured; neck thick, a little less than a half as wide as head, very shallowly and sparsely punctate in median portion of the dorsum, with neck constriction widely sulcate; chaetotaxy in dorsal view consisting of 7 pairs of well developed macrosetae as in other genera of the group, only the genal one of them being poorly developed. Eyes large, produced, a little longer than postgenae. Antennae filiform, moderately long, with basal four segments polished. Subgenae weakly convex, coarsely, very sparsely punctate and pubescent, with fine microsculpture; infragenal line very fine, barely discernible, and subgenal macroseta short and thin.

Labrum (Fig. 9) short, bilobate, deeply incised at the middle; each lobe transversely suboblong, gently arcuate at anterior margin, flattened in marginal area, with several setae of various length behind the area and closely pubescent at the inner half of front margin. Mandibles (Figs.7, 8) thick, a little shorter than head, gently incurved, acute at apex and weakly produced inferiorly; upper inner margins gently produced towards the middle, each forming a wide and large tooth and bearing a small sharp denticle beneath the former tooth; the tooth of the left mandible wide, short, sharply denticulate at basal and distal angles, and tooth of the right mandible also short, wide, slightly protuberant, with the distal angle obtuse and the basal one sharp but hardly visible in dorsal view.

Galea (Fig. 10) weakly thickened distad, closely pubescent in distal lobe; proximal sclerite obtrapezoidal, dilated apicad, with a few terminal setae. Lacinia (Fig. 10) with sparse long pubescence near base, rather dense and short one at distal side. Maxillary palpi (Fig. 10) filiform, elongate; 1st segment very short, strongly curved, with a fine seta near apex; 2nd gently curved, thickened apicad, a little longer than 3rd, bearing a few fine setae at lateral margin and several ones in the apical portion; 3rd clavate, slightly slenderer than 2nd, nearly straight, with several fine setae here and there; 4th subcylindrical, nearly as long as 3rd, slightly slenderer than and nearly as long as 2nd and glabrous.

Labial palpi (Fig. 11) filiform; 1st segment much longer than wide, a little shorter than 2nd, with a fine seta near base; 2nd clavate, straight, with two or more fine short setae near base and about three long setae in apical portion; 3rd subfusiform, straight,



Figs. 1–4. *Philetaerius* spp. —— 1, Habitus of *Philetaerius elegans* SHARP; 2, ditto, holotype of *P. elegans* SHARP; 3, labels attached to the holotype; 4, habitus of *Philetaerius chinensis* sp. nov.

slenderer than 1st, glabrous and blunt at the tip. Ligula short, strongly warped inwards, bilobate, rounded at front margin of each lobe, carinate medially and depressed on both sides of the carina. Paraglossa elongate, reaching near the middle of 2nd segment of labial palpus fringed with short ciliae at inner edge. Prementum subpentagonal, triangularly protuberant in anterior portion and deeply impressed medially, strongly transverse in basal portion. Mentum (Fig. 11) very short, strongly transverse, weakly emarginate at front margin, with a long seta at each lateral corner; submentum bearing a pair of long setae; gular plate weakly convex, wide at anteriormost and linearly convergent basad.

Pronotum (Figs. 5 & 12) subcordate, strongly convex, distinctly narrowed posteriad, weakly emarginate at sides, a little longer than wide; disc rather sparsely punctured; chaetotaxy composed of three pairs of well developed macrosetae, *viz.*, anterolateral, mid-lateral and latero-basal macrosetae, antero-marginal one absent; superior lateral line visible only in basal third in dorsal view, united with inferior lateral one at about anterior fourth and on posterior angle, and the united line extending forwards under anterior corner, again visible at each lateral third of anterior margin. Pronotal epipleuron elongate subfusiform, without epimeron.

Scutellum lingulate, subacute at apex, a little wider than long, shallowly depressed and densely asperate-punctate as on elytra; prescutum smooth and well developed.

Elytra (Fig. 5) subquadrate, lateral margins weakly arcuate, and apical ones gently arcuate in each half; disc weakly uneven, coarsely and densely asperate-punctate, with rather short tomentous pubescence which is not so dense and forms loose small hair-streamings here and there; sutural area well convex but indefinitely bordered; chaeto-taxy consisting of the following macrosetae, humeral macroseta accompanied with a long seta, mid-lateral macroseta, antero-median macroseta, parascutellar macroseta and postero-median macroseta; the parascutellar macrosetae well developed but located very near to scutellum as in most of the Philonthini.

Prosternum short, strongly convex and carinate medially, shallowly depressed beside the median carina, without paired long erect setae, and prosternal process not protuberant; furcasternum long, strongly convex and carinate medially except for the hindmost.

Mesosternum (Fig. 13) rather long, gently convex, subtriangularly depressed on both sides of mesosternal process and bearing a distinct median carina in basal half.

Metasternum impressed medially, sparsely punctate with long tomentous pubescence.

Abdomen subparallel-sided, with basal three tergites transversely and rather deeply depressed at each base; 3rd to 6th tergites (Fig. 14) each with pores bearing two pairs of bristles at about the middle and near apical margin of each lateral side, and 7th tergite with the same bristle only at about the middle of each lateral side; 7th and 8th tergites in male very feebly emarginate in the middle of each hind margin; 10th tergite (Fig. 16) in male obtrapezoidal, rapidly narrowed posteriad, feebly emarginate at apical

margin, scattered with short fine pubescence in basal half and with rather long fine ones in hind half; in male, 7th sternite slightly emarginate at hind margin, 8th (Fig. 15) deeply emarginate at apical margin, and 9th (Fig. 17) elongate-subfusiform, roundly emarginate at apex, sparsely asperate-punctate with rather long pubescence. In female, 7th sternite nearly straight at hind margin, 8th tergite slightly arcuate at hind margin, with a weak emargination at the middle, and 8th sternite weakly arcuate at hind margin, with a pair of bristles a little behind the middle; 10th tergite (Fig. 18) obtrapezoidal, a little wider than long, truncate at apex, with fine pubescence in apical portion. Second gonocoxite (Fig. 19) short, rather wide, nearly as long as 10th tergite at the inner margin, abundantly pubescent at outer margin; minute stylus very small, with a long seta at the tip.

Legs long and slender, without specially modified structure usually found in other genera of the Eucibdelina; protarsi (Fig. 20) distinctly dilated in both sexes but more strongly so in male; tibiae bearing several, rather slender spines; empodial setae paired, very fine and short as in the genera of the Anisolinina.

Male genitalia (Figs. 21–23, 25–26) almost symmetrical, nearly straight; penis well sclerotized but membranous medially on dorsal side; parameres much shorter than penis, without peg-seta.

Discussion. This genus apparently belongs to the Eucibdelina because of possessing the almost same structure of limbic conformation of the pronotum as in the other genera of the subtribe.

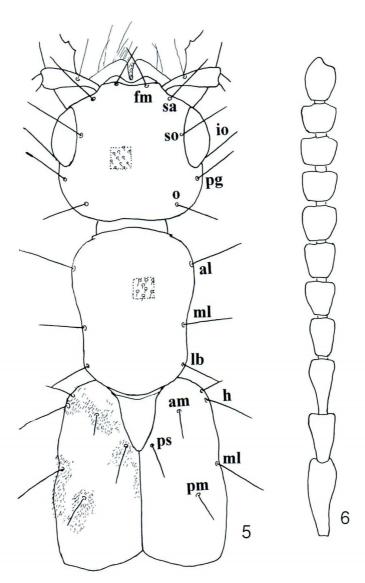
Philetaerius bears the following features which are absent in the other genera of the group: 1) Median portion of disc of neck is almost impunctate as in most genera of the Philonthina; 2) subgenal lines are very fine, weak but distinct; 3) legs are not modified as in the other genera of the group, and tibiae bear a few well developed spines, with strong terminal setae; 4) all empodial setae are very thin and short as in the genera of the Anisolinina; 5) on the under side of head, the posterior edge of submental fossa is not sharp except for lateral ends, which are sharp, and rather blunt as in Neotropical Leistrophus; 6) Philetaerius species are the only myrmecophiles in the Eucibdelina.

Philetaerius elegans SHARP, 1889

(Figs. 1-3, 5-23)

Philetaerius elegans Sharp, 1889, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist., (6), **3**: 119. For other references, see Maruyama *et al.*, 2000, p. 68.

Description. Rather similar in facies to a *Phytolinus* species; body thick, stout and well shiny; colour black with bluish metallic luster on head and pronotum; mouth organs pitchy brown, with teeth of mandibles and basal part of labrum darkened; antennae brown, with 1st segment a little darker; elytra with brownish purple luster, yellowish brown at extreme base, bearing five pairs of tomentous patches of silvery, rather short pubescence, *viz.*, around shoulder, in middle of lateral side, diagonally behind



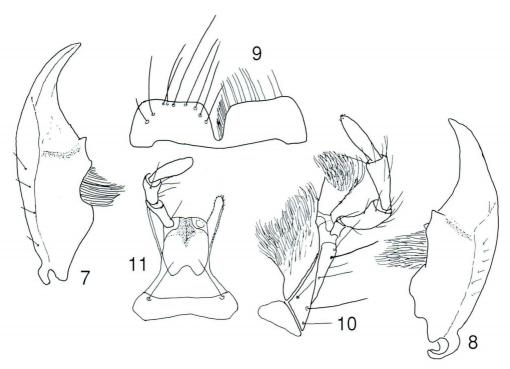
Figs. 5–6. *Philetaerius elegans* Sharp. — 5, Fore body with macrosetae: al=antero-lateral; am=antero-median; fm=front marginal; h=humeral; io=infra-orbital; lb=latero-basal; ml=mid-lateral; pg=post-genal; pm=post-median; ps=parascutellar; sa=supra-antennal; so=supraorbital; 6, antenna.

scutellum in anterior half of sutural area and the rest in middle of each elytron; abdomen dark to blackish brown, yellowish brown in paratergites and hind margins of abdominal segments, with a weak tomentous patch of sparse silvery pubescence at the lateral side of each segment; legs brown; coxae, profemora and protibiae wholly dark

brown, meso- and metatibiae darkened in each apical third with a small dark patch in middle of the latter. Length: 9.5–13 mm (Examined matelials are 9.5–10.5 mm in length, but the type specimens studied by Sharp is markedly larger, about 13 mm in the length).

Head (Fig. 5) nearly parallel-sided, widely rounded in hind angles, much wider than long (41:33), much wider and shorter than pronotum (41:32 and 33:40); upper surface gently convex, flattened in the space between antennal tubercle and eye, sparsely, uniformly and finely punctured, with sparse, rather short recumbent pubescence, without microsculpture, and the punctures clearly carved, deep and umbilicate. Eyes large, moderately prominent, slightly shorter than postgenae (15:16). Mandibles rather short, stout and nearly two-thirds as long as head. Antennae (Fig. 6) slender, slightly thickened apicad and reaching near base of pronotum; basal six segments and 11th segment longer than wide; 7th segment nearly as long as wide, 7th to 10th each a little wider than long, with the following relative length (width): 19.0 (7.0):11.0 (6.5): 13.0 (6.0):9.0 (6.0):8.0 (7.0):8.0 (7.5):8.0 (8.5):7.5 (8.5):7.0 (8.5):7.0 (8.5):10.0 (8.0).

Pronotum (Fig. 5) subcordate, strongly convex, strongly narrowed posteriad, widest at about anterior fourth, widely emarginate in basal two-thirds of sides, much



Figs. 7–11. *Philetaerius elegans* SHARP. —— 7, Left mandible; 8, right mandible; 9, labrum; 10, maxilla; 11, labium.

longer than wide (40:32), much narrower and a little shorter than elytra (32:48 and 40:45); anterior and basal angles widely rounded; anterior margin nearly straight, and basal one rounded; disc punctured as on head, without microsculpture, in male with a faint raised median line, which is traceable in basal half, ended at basal fifth as a weakly angulate tubercle in male, abruptly, and plainly deflexed from the tubercle towards basal margin and very sparsely punctured in the deflexed area, while in female, disc gently and arcuately declivous towards basal margin, without such median tubercle.

Scutellum shallowly depressed, densely, coarsely and strongly asperate-punctate, with long black setae.

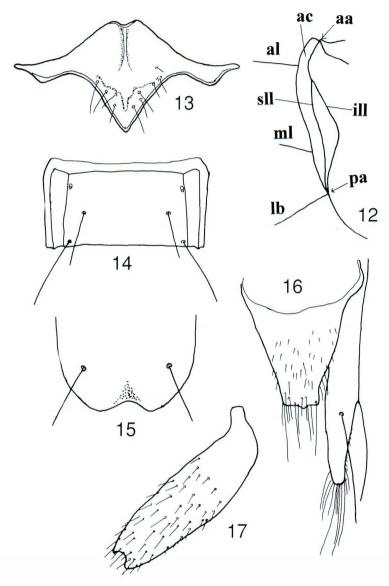
Elytra (Fig. 5) subquadrate, slightly wider than long, not dilated posteriad, gently arcuate at sides, vaguely depressed inwards from shoulders to the middle of each elytron, shallowly depressed behind shoulders in each elytral epipleuron, with a rather strong depression a little inside latero-posterior angles; surface very densely and strongly asperate-punctate, the punctures becoming smaller, sparser and not asperate near hind margin, without microsculpture; tomentous hair-streaming mainly distributed behind macrosetae and large setae. Hind wings well developed, functional.

Abdomen somewhat widened in middle; punctures on each tergite very fine and dense in basal area and becoming larger and sparser towards hind margin, and those on sternite somewhat larger but much more sparser; 3rd to 6th (Fig. 14) tergites each bearing two pairs of bristles, one of them being at the middle to lateral third and the other near latero-posterior angle; 7th and 8th tergites each with a bristle at the middle of each lateral third; 8th tergite gently arcuate at hind margin and faintly emarginate in the middle; male 8th sternite (Fig. 15) widely emarginate at hind margin, with a small triangular and glabrous flattened space before the emargination and bearing a pair of long bristles; female 8th tergite gently arcuate at hind margin.

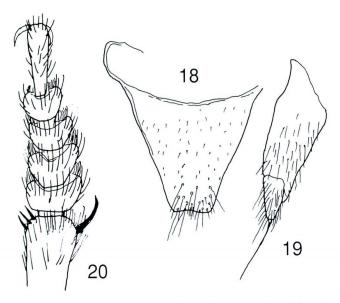
Legs long and slender; protibiae slightly incurved, with inner terminal spurs weakly curved; protarsi (Fig. 20) with basal four segments moderately dilated in male, less dilated in female; mesotibiae weakly incurved, with longer terminal spur gently curved; mesotibiae faintly sinuate; 1st segment of hind tarsi nearly as long as the following two segments combined together and slightly longer than 5th.

Male genitalia (Figs. 21–23) symmetrical; penis slender, moderately tumid into a bulb, nearly cylindrical and parallel-sided in median two-thirds, then gently narrowed toward rounded apex in ventral view, gently reflexed dorsally in apical portion, rounded at apex and with a hook like a beak in lateral view, and dorsal side subcylindrical, nearly straight, weakly sclerotized, truncate at apical fifth, apical orifice opened there, and ventral side foveolate in apical side of apex of parameres and shortly carinate at both sides of the fovea; parameres nearly parallel-sided, weakly bilobate at apex, much shorter than penis, barely reaching its apical two-thirds, with a few sparse punctures ranged along lateral margin as in Fig. 23 and bearing a few fine pale setae at each apex.

Specimens examined. 13 (holotype), Bukenji, 13-IV-1884, G. LEWIS leg.;



Figs. 12–17. *Philetaerius elegans* Sharp. —— 12, Pronotum, oblique ventral view from the right side (aa=anterior angle; ac=anterior corner; ill=inferior lateral line; pa=posterior angle; sll=superior lateral line); 13, mesosternum. 14, 6th abdominal tergite; 15, 8th abdominal sternite of male; 16, 10th abdominal tergite of male; 17, 9th abdominal sternite of male.



Figs. 18–20. *Philetaerius elegans* SHARP. —— 18, Tenth abdominal tergite of female; 19, 2nd gonocoxite; 20; male protarsus.

5♂♂, 1♂, Mt. Shioyama, Ranzan T., Saitama Pref., 5–IX–1997, K. Toyoda leg.; 1♂, ditto, 4–VII–1996, K. Toyoda leg.; 2♀♀, Fujio-Jinja, Nishiueta-chô, Takamatsu-shi, Kagawa Pref., 31–V–2001, M. Maruyama *et al.* leg.; 1♂, Kami-Imai, Hosaka-chô, Nirasaki-shi, Yamanashi Pref., 15–VIII–2000, T. Kobayashi leg.; 1♀, Shimokomoriya, Utsunomiya-shi, Tochigi Pref., 6–VII–1999, M. Maruyama leg.; 1♀, Takao-san, Hachiôji-shi, Tokyo, 4–VI–2001, M. Maruyama leg.

Host ants. Lasius (Dendrolasius) spathepus Wheeler; L. (D.) fuliginosus (Latreille); L. (D.) nipponensis Forel; L. (D.) morisitai Yamauchi; (Sharp: Formica fuliginosa).

Distribution. Japan (Hokkaido, Honshu, Shikoku); Oriental Region (I was unable to examine any specimens from continental Asia and Southeast Asia).

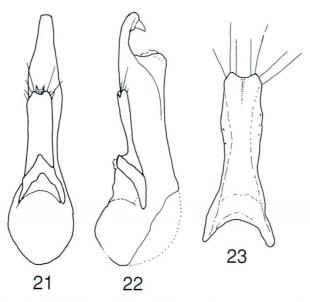
Notes. The present species is easily recognised in having a bluish luster on the head and pronotum and a tubercle on the male pronotum.

Philetaerius chinensis sp. nov.

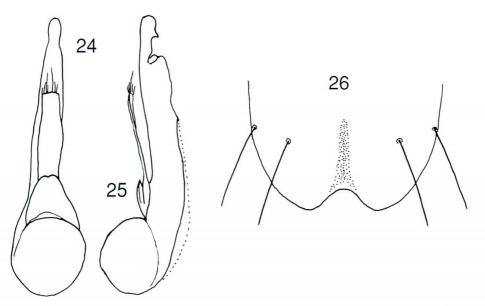
(Figs. 5, 24–26)

This new species is very similar in general appearance to *P. elegans* but easily separated from the latter by the absence of metallic luster on the head and pronotum and in having larger eyes.

Body black, without metallic luster on head and pronotum; elytra narrowly yel-



Figs. 21–23. *Philetaerius elegans* SHARP, male genitalia. —— 21, Ventral view; 22, right lateral view; 23, inner face of parameres.



Figs. 24–26. *Philetaerius chinensis* sp. nov. —— 24, Eighth abdominal sternite of male; 25, male genitalia, ventral view; 26, ditto, right lateral view.

lowish brown in extreme base, with brassy brown metallic luster; pattern of tomentous hair-streaming on elytra and abdomen very similar to that of *P. elegans*, but the hairs are rather shorter, sparser, less conspicuous and less whitish than in *P. elegans*; abdomen blackish brown, with paratergites yellowish brown; legs brown; coxae and profemora dark brown, apical halves of mesofemora and apical third and apex of metafemora dark brown.

Head a little wider than long (42:32), a little wider and much shorter than pronotum (42:35 and 32:42), a little more strongly convex above, coarsely, sparsely and umbilicatedly punctured, without microsculpture. Eyes large, strongly convex, the longitudinal diameter longer than postgena (16:13). Antennae rather slender, reaching a little behind the middle of pronotum, 1st to 8th and 11th segments more or less longer than wide, 9th and 10th nearly as long as wide, with the following relative length (width): 21.0 (7.0): 10.0 (5.0): 13.0 (5.0): 8.5 (5.5): 8.0 (5.5): 8.0 (6.0): 8.0 (6.5): 7.5 (7.0): 7.5 (7.5): 8.0 (8.0): 10.5 (8.0).

Pronotum subcordate, less narrower than in *P. elegans*, a little longer than wide (42:35), much narrower and slightly shorter than elytra (35:47 and 42:47), widest at anterior fifth, less narrowed posteriad than in *P. elegans* and feebly emarginate at basal two-thirds of lateral margin; disc strongly and evenly convex in both sexes, coarsely punctured as on head, narrowly impunctate in median line, the line widened near base and very sparsely punctured in basal area.

Scutellum a little more finely, densely and less coarsely punctured than in *P. elegans*.

Elytra more finely, densely and less asperately punctate, with shorter pubescence than in *P. elegans* but in other respects they are closely similar to those of the latter species.

Abdomen a little dilated in middle, much more finely and densely punctured, less shiny, with shorter and denser pubescence than in *P. elegans*; male 8th sternite (Fig. 24) rather widely and deeply emarginate at apical margin, with a narrow and glabrous long depression before the emargination, and bearing two pairs of long bristles; male 10th tergite not denticulate at apical margin, simply truncate.

Legs rather thick; tibiae nearly straight, with terminal spurs straight; male protarsi markedly dilated except for 5th segment, and female ones less dilated and similar to those in male of *P. elegans*.

Male genitalia (Figs. 25–26) similar in structure to those of *P. elegans* but much slenderer and somewhat twisted (the specimens examined are somewhat immature); penis not foveolate or carinate on ventral side; parameres relatively long, nearly truncate, and not lobate at apex, with about eight setae at the tip.

Holotype: δ , Dahong-cun (1,030 m), Da-an Xiang, Longshan, Hunan Prov., China, 11–VI–2000, T. KISHIMOTO leg. Paratypes: 5 \Im 9, same locality as the holotype, 13–VI–2000, Y. IMURA leg. (All the type specimens are preserved in the collection of the National Science Museum (Natural History), Tokyo).

Host ant. Lasius (Dendrolasius) capitatus (Kuznetsov-Ugamsky, 1927) フシボ

ソクサアリ.

Notes on the Eucibdelini

Sharp (1889) used the name "Eucibdelini" in the description of the genus *Miobdelus* connecting it with the genus *Philetaerius*: "These characters bring the genus (=Miobdelus) nearer to *Philetaerius* (p. 118) than to any other, yet the two are very different in appearance; and it appears that whereas the genus just named connects the Eucibdeli with the *Philonthus* group of genera, *Miobdelus* connects the Eucibdelini with *Ocypus*." This account does not based on any sound reasoning, but it is apparent that the name Eucibdelini was derived from the generic name *Eucibdelus*. Therefore, according to ICZN: Art. 11. 7, 62 and 63, the Eucibdelini is an available name. It includes the genera *Eucibdelus* Kraatz, *Trichocosmetes* Kraatz, *Philetaerius* Sharp, *Phytolinus* Sharp and *Rhynchocheilus* Sharp at that time. Before or after Sharp (1889), however, I was unable to find any reference to the Eucibdeli or the Eucibdelini.

The genus *Philetaerius* has been included in the *Eucibdelus* group since Sharp (1889), and though this assignment seems reasonable to me, its phylogenetic position among the genera of the Staphylinini has not been sufficiently scrutinized. Sharp (1889) pointed out that the genus should be placed between *Philonthus* and *Eucibdelus* because of intermediate structure of mouth organs. After a close examination and comparison of *Philetaerius* with other genera, the common characteristics of the group noted by Hayashi (1997), if anything, proved very ambiguous as was pointed out by Schillhammer (2001). However, I recently came to the conclusion that the characters undermentioned are common in this group.

Delimitation of the Subtribe Eucibdelina

Eucibdelini Sharp, 1889, Ann. Mag. nat. Hist., (6), 3: 112.

Type genus: Eucibdelus KRAATZ, 1859.

Description. Pronotal epipleuron small, narrow and short due to the fusion of inferior lateral line with the superior lateral one at the anterior fourth to third and at the posterior angle of pronotum, the posterior united point being stable in the group. In other respects, this subtribe shares main characteristics with the Staphylinina (Staphylinini).

The following characteristics are generally observed in this subtribe inclusive of those proposed by Hayashi (1997, 1998): empodial setae very poorly developed especially in protarsi, sometimes indiscernible in certain genera. In this respect, at least the genera *Eucibdelus* Kraatz, *Parapalaestrinus* Bernhauer, *Phytolinus* Sharp, *Paraphytolinus* Hayashi, *Philetaerius* Sharp, *Rhynchocheilus* Sharp, *Rhyncocheilus* Fauvel, and *Trichocosmetes* Kraatz, all examined by myself, are basically identical with one another.

The posterior united point is evidently lies behind the posterior angles of prono-

tum in the genus *Leistrophus* PERTY. In the other genera of the Staphylinina, the posterior united point of the pronotal epipleura is always located far behind the posterior angles of pronotum. It is therefore intermediate between the Anisolinina (Philonthini) and the Staphylinina. The unmodified legs, poor empodial setae, male genitalia and structure of the mesosternum suggest that the subtribe Eucibdelina may be closely related to the Anisolinina.

要 約

林 靖彦:アジア産ハネカクシ亜科の研究. VI. オオズハイイロハネカクシ属の再検討およびハイイロハネカクシ亜族について. — オオズハイイロハネカクシ属はハイイロハネカクシ亜族 Eucibdelina に属し、本亜族のほとんどの属が樹上捕食性であるのに対して好蟻性を示す。オオズハイイロハネカクシ属は、同じ亜族の他の属とは外見がかなり異なり、むしろ Anisolinina 亜族の一部の種に似ている. しかし、詳細に観察した結果、前胸背板側片の構造がハイイロハネカクシ属 Eucibdelus と同様であるので、これと同じグループに所属するものと判断した. 従来本属は1種を含むのみであったが、岸本年郎博士によって中国からもたらされた種が未記載だと判明したので、ここに新種 Philetaerius chinensis として記載した.

ハイイロハネカクシ亜族は SHARP (1889) により Eucibdelini として提示されたが、明瞭な定義付けがなされておらず、その後もこの分類群(名前に対しても)に対する再検討がされないままであった。最近、オーストリアの SCHILLHAMMER を中心に、この亜族の属や種の記載や再検討が進められているが、本亜族の独立性については長年、結論が出されないままであった。筆者も長年にわたって観察してきたが、容易に結論を出せなかった。しかし最近、前胸背板辺縁構造によって単系統のグループとみなしうるという結論に至った。

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